

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 SALT TWO GENEVA 373

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DEPT ALSO PASS DOD

SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR SECDEF

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PARM

SUBJ: DEPUTY MINISTER SEMENOV'S STATEMENT OF SEPTEMBER 25,
1975 (SALT TWO-800)

THE FOLLOWING IS STATEMENT DELIVERED BY DEPTUY MINISTER
SEMENOV AT THE SALT TWO MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 25, 1975.

SEMENOV STATEMENT, SEPTEMBER 25, 1975

AT THE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 11, 1975 THE SOVIET SIDE
TABLED NEW PROPOSALS CONCERNING THE FUNCTIONS OF THE STANDING
CONSULTATIVE COMMISSION WITH RESPECT TO THE AGREEMENT BEING
WORKED OUT.

BY ENSURING, TOGETHER WITH THE OTHER AGREED PROVISIONS OF
ARTICLE XVIII, PAR. 2, OF THE JOINT DRAFT, THE EFFECTIVE WORK
OF THE SCC IN TERMS OF PROMOTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
OBJECTIVES AND PROVISIONS OF THE NEW AGREEMENT BEING WORKED OUT,
THESE SOVIET PROPOSALS ARE STRICTLY IN ACCORD WITH THE AGREED

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PRINCIPLE OF VERIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH OBLIGATIONS BY

NATIONAL TECHNICAL MEANS, AND ALSO WITH THE OTHER FUNDAMENTAL PROVISIONS OF THE AGREEMENT, I.E., THE RIGHT OF THE SIDES TO MODERNIZATION AND REPLACEMENT, AND TO DETERMINATION OF THE COMPOSITION OF STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS WITHIN THE LIMITS OF THE QUANTITATIVE LEVELS BEING ESTABLISHED.

TODAY THE USSR DELEGATION INTENDS TO EXPRESS SOME ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS IN SUPPORT OF THE PROPOSALS TABLED BY THE SOVIET SIDE FOR ARTICLE XVIII, SUBPARAGRAPHS 2(B), AND 2(E).

I

FIRST OF ALL, ON THE CONTENT OF SUBPARAGRAPH (B) WHICH CONCERNS EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION.

BOTH SIDES ADVOCATE PROVIDING, ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS, WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE SCC, SUCH INFORMATION AS EITHER CONSIDERS NECESSARY TO ASSURE CONFIDENCE IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE OBLIGATIONS ASSUMED. THIS REAFFIRMS THE VERY IMPORTANT PRINCIPLE OF THE VOLUNTARY BASIS ON WHICH INFORMATION IS PROVIDED, WHICH HAS BEEN FIRMLY ESTABLISHED IN THE PRACTICE OF CONTEMPORARY INTERNATIONAL LAW, AND IS OF SPECIAL IMPORTANCE IN AGREEING ON ISSUES AFFECTING THE SPHERE OF NATIONAL SECURITY. IT IS NOT ACCIDENTAL THAT THIS PRINCIPLE HAS BEEN RECORDED AND IS SUCCESSFULLY IMPLEMENTED, IN PARTICULAR, WITH RESPECT TO THE CORRESPONDING PROVISIONS OF SUCH SOVIET-U.S. AGREEMENTS AS THE ABM TREATY AND THE INTERIM AGREEMENT.

INCORPORATION OF THIS PRINCIPLE WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF ARTICLE XVIII, SUBPAR. 2(B), MUST PLAY AN IMPORTANT POSITIVE ROLE IN TERMS OF STRENGTHENING MUTUAL TRUST AND BE AN EXPRESSION OF THE WILL OF THE SIDES STRICTLY TO COMPLY WITH THE OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE NEW AGREEMENT FOR THE PERIOD UNTIL THE END OF 1985.

HAVING TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT THE CONSIDERATIONS ADVANCED BY THE U.S. DELEGATION IN THE COURSE OF DISCUSSION OF ARTICLE XVIII, PAR. 2, THE SOVIET SIDE PROPOSED THAT A NUMBER OF NEW PROVISIONS BE ADDED TO THAT SUBPARAGRAPH.

ACCORDING TO THE SOVIET PROPOSAL OF SEPTEMBER 11, 1975,
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EACH SIDE COULD, AS NECESSARY, ADDRESS APPROPRIATE INQUIREIES TO THE OTHER SIDE, USING THE MECHANISM OF THE SCC.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE SOVIET PROPOSAL PROVIDES THAT, IN THE INTERESTS OF ENSURING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE AGREEMENT, EACH SIDE FURNISH APPROPRIATE INFORMATION ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS, INCLUDING BY WAY OF REPLY TO POSSIBLE INQUIRIES. IT IS CLEAR THAT THE INFORMATION THUS PROVIDED WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO

REDUCING THE POSSIBILITY OF AMBIGUITIES WITH RESPECT TO COMPLIANCE BY THE SIDES WITH THE OBLIGATIONS ASSUMED UNDER THE AGREEMENT.

SUCH A PRACTICE WOULD SUBSTANTIALLY CONTRIBUTE TO INCREASING MUTUAL TRUST, WHICH IS SO NECESSARY IN THE RESPONSIBLE AND DELICATE SPHERE OF LIMITATION OF STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS.

TO RECORD IT IN THE JOINT DRAFT, ALONG WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF CONSIDERING QUESTIONS CONCERNING SITUATIONS WHICH MAY BE CONSIDERED AMBIGUOUS, AND THE PROVISIONS ON REACHING AGREEMENT WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE SCC ON THE PROCEDURES ENVISAGED IN THE SOVIET VERSION OF ARTICLE XVIII, SUBPAR. 2(E), WOULD MEET THE NECESSARY REQUIREMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH ENSURING CONFIDENCE IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE OBLIGATIONS ASSUMED AND WOULD THUS BE A CONTRIBUTION TO FULFILLMENT BY THE SCC OF ITS PRINCIPAL FUNCTION--TO PROMOTE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OBJECTIVES AND PROVISIONS OF THE AGREEMENT BEING WORKED OUT.

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II

THE WORDING OF ARTICLE XVIII, SUBPAR. 2(E), TABLED BY THE SOVIET SIDE ON SEPTEMBER 11, 1975, CONTAINING THE ALREADY AGREED PROVISION ON ASSIGNING TO THE SCC THE FUNCTION OF AGREEING UPON PROCEDURES AND DATES FOR DISMANTLING OR DESTRUCTION OF STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS, INCLUDES AN IMPORTANT NEW ELEMENT AS WELL--THE PROVISION ON ALSO AGREEING UPON PROCEDURES FOR REMOVAL OF SUCH ARMS FROM THE AGGREGATE NUMBER, WHEN THEY OTHERWISE CEASE TO BE SUBJECT TO THE LIMITATIONS PROVIDED FOR IN THE AGREEMENT BEING WORKED OUT.

TOGETHER WITH THE AGREED PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE VI, THE PROVISIONS PROPOSED BY THE SOVIET SIDE FOR ARTICLE XVIII, SUBPAR. 2(E), GIVE A CLEAR AND PRECISE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF INCLUDING THE ARMS BEING LIMITED INTO THE OVERALL QUANTITATIVE LIMITS BEING ESTABLISHED, OR REMOVING THEM THEREFROM, BY ASSIGNING TO THE SCC IN THIS CONNECTION APPROPRIATE AND UNAMBIGUOUSLY OUTLINED FUNCTIONS.

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AS YOU KNOW, ARTICLE VI CONTAINS PROVISIONS WHICH ARE IMPORTANT AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE FROM THE STANDPOINT OF COUNTING THE ARMS BEING LIMITED WITHIN THE AGGREGATE QUANTITATIVE LEVELS BEING ESTABLISHED. THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE VI DEFINE WHEN THE ARMS BEING LIMITED BEGIN TO BE COUNTED AS INCLUDED IN THE QUANTITATIVE MAXIMUM LEVELS. AT THE SAME TIME, IT IS CLEAR FROM ARTICLE VI IN WHAT CONDITION THE ARMS WHICH ARE SUBJECT OF THE NEW AGREEMENT CEASE TO BE COUNTED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE QUANTITATIVE CEILINGS BEING ESTABLISHED.

AS FOR THE QUESTION WHICH ARISES IN THIS CONNECTION, CONCERNING AGREEING ON PROCEDURES AND DATES FOR DISMANTLING OR DESTRUCTION OF STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS IN CASES PROVIDED FOR BY THE AGREEMENT TO BE CONCLUDED, IT IS GOVERNED BY THE AGREED PORTION OF ARTICLE XVIII, SUBPAR. 2(E).

THE ADDITION CONTAINED IN THE SOVIET SIDE'S PROPOSAL OF SEPTEMBER 11, 1975 DEFINES THE METHOD OF ALSO RESOLVING THE QUESTION OF AGREEING UPON PROCEDURES FOR REMOVING STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS FROM THE AGGREGATE NUMBERS WHEN THEY OTHERWISE CEASE TO BE SUBJECT TO THE LIMITATIONS BEING PROVIDED FOR.

III

WITH REGARD TO THE PROPOSALS ADVANCED HERE FOR ARTICLE XVIII, PAR. 2, WHICH PROVIDE FOR PERIODIC EXCHANGES OF INFORMATION ON THE NUMBERS BY CATEGORY OF THE STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS BEING LIMITED, NOTIFICATION OF ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF

THE LIMITATIONS BEING ESTABLISHED, AS WELL AS CONSIDERATION
ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS OF VERIFICATION ISSUES, THE SOVIET
SIDE HAS STATED ITS POSITION, AT THE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 9,
1975 AMONG OTHERS.

IN THE LIGHT OF WHAT WE HAVE SAID TODAY, IT IS CLEAR THAT
THERE IS NO NEED FOR AGREEING ON SOME SORT OF OTHER PROCEDURES,
OR ON CRITERIA FOR INCLUSION OF STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS IN
THE LIMITATIONS BEING PROVIDED FOR BY THE NEW AGREEMENT, OR
THEIR REMOVAL.

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THE USSR DELEGATION PROCEEDS FROM THE PREMISE THAT THE
CONSIDERATIONS WE HAVE EXPRESSED WILL FACILITATE AGREEING
UPON MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE PROVISIONS DEALING WITH THE
FUNCTIONS OF THE SCC WITH RESPECT TO THE NEW AGREEMENT, WITHIN
THE FRAMEWORK OF ARTICLE XVIII, PAR. 2.
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